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STATE

OF

BOSTON SCHOOLS.

MAY, 1826.

REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

ON

The State of the Schools.

MAY, 1826.

BOSTON:
THOMAS B. WAIT AND SON, PRINTERS,
No. 90, Court-Street.
1826.

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In School Committee 26th May, 1826.

VOTED that Mr. H. J. Oliver, the special committee to prepare the Return of the several schools in the city, to be made to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in compliance with the requirements of the statute of 4th March last, entitled "an act further to provide for the instruction of youth" —and to report to this board,—be authorised and requested to make the return, this day reported, to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, as from this board.

Voted that the same committee be requested to cause five hundred copies of the Report aforesaid to be printed in a pamphlet form, together with such of the documents accompanying it, as, in his opinion, will be consistent with the rights of individuals, and conducive to public benefit.

Attest JNO. PIERPONT, Secretary.

REPORT.

THE sub-committee appointed at a meeting of the School Committee on the seventh ultimo, 'for the purpose of preparing a return of the several schools

in this city, to be made to the Secretary of this Commonwealth, in compliance with the requirements of the statute of the 4th of March last—entitled an act further to provide for the instruction of youth—have attended that service, having commenced upon the preliminary duty assigned them, that of *inquiry*, on the 8th and completed the same on the 17th instant, and now ask leave to report.

———That the whole number of *Public* Schools in the city is - - - 74
viz. 9 Grammar and 9 Writing Schools, one Latin School—one English High School for boys, one English High School for girls—51 schools for children between 4 and 7 years of age and denominated 'Primary Schools,' and two schools in the House of Industry at South Boston—for the particulars of all which see paper marked (A.)

———That the whole number of pupils at the above schools is - - - 7044
For the numbers, ages and other particulars see papers (A) and (B)—and it may not be uninteresting in this place to state, that of this number of 7044, there are 218 *colored* children, who are participating in the advantages of *each branch* of instruction enjoyed at our public schools.

———That the expense of tuition, fuel &c. for the current year is estimated to be - - - - - - $54,417 00

without any reference to the cost of the several public buildings where those children over 7 years of age receive their instruction, and which are ten in number, the average cost of which, as appears from the books at the auditor's office, is but little short of $20,000 for each school house.

———That the whole number of *private* schools in this city, as ascertained from a personal visit by your committee to each school is (see paper marked C.) - - - - - - - 141

———That the whole number of pupils at said schools is - - - 3392

as will appear by the separate schedule of each ward and marked C—giving the numbers &c. at each school of those under 4—those from 4 to 7—those from 7 to 14 and those over 14 years of age. —And here it may be mentioned, that there are 272 children at school under the age of *four* years.

———That the expense of instruction at these schools estimating from the most correct data which could be had, including the average expense of books &c. both at these and the public schools, for the current year, is - - - $97,305 25

(For the particulars of this item, see statement marked C.)

That the *whole* number of schools in the city is - - - - - - 215

That the *whole* number of children at the public and private schools in this city at the present time is - -	10,436
That the *whole* amount of public and private tuition including expense of books as before expressed, is -	$151,722 25

Your committee present the above particulars, together with the additional information required by the act of the legislature in the printed form accompanying this report, which if it receive the sanction of the school committee, will constitute the return to be made at the secretary of the commonwealth's office.*

The preceding report and return embrace, as has already appeared, the *private* schools of our city. Strictly considered, and with all due deference to the legislature, it was conceived, by many of the teachers —that that body had no authority to demand of any town the information pertaining to this class of schools—and hence that no town could require the information of any teacher of a private school.—In some instances the questions were asked of your committee, why do you request this information of us? what is the object of it &c.—when on explanation, the information was very readily afforded. Your committee would take this opportunity to express their thanks to the teachers, generally, for the promptitude and urbanity which characterised them in their answers, and, in several instances, in the aid,

* The return as made to the Legislature does not appear in this pamphlet—the items were the same but the arrangement was altogether different.

afforded to your committee in making their inquiries, and which have resulted in completing a return, with regard to which, the school committee of Boston would unite with all teachers of Youth and their fellow citizens in general, in mutual congratulations, that we live in a day when the interests of learning are so generally and so liberally fostered, and for the encouraging belief, that under the blessing of God, they cannot but be attended with the most important and happy consequences.

In conclusion and somewhat in connection with the preceding paragraph on the subject of *private* schools, it remains for your committee to recommend, that the several particulars of each of these schools, and embraced in the packet marked C, be placed on the files of the secretary of this board, with the understanding, that no public use is to be made of the information other than that which is here given in aggregate in the numbers of schools, pupils, and amount of tuition.* This direction of these papers is due to the teachers, and was understood with many of them should be had in regard to them.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY J. OLIVER,
Committee.

Boston, May 27, 1826.

* The return marked C, as made to the School Committee, was in twelve sheets, and contained the names of each teacher, prices of tuition, &c.

(A)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS—MAY 1826.

NAMES OF SCHOOLS.	Schools	Males.			Females.			*When established.
		under 7	7 to 14	over 14	under 7	7 to 14	over 14	
Primary,	51	1310	120		1229	146		1818
Eliot,	2		254	1		195	10	1713
Adams,	2		295	5		268	14	1717
Franklin,	2		323	7		218	9	1785
Mayhew,	2		226	0		172	8	1803
Boylston,	2		220	7		152	9	1819
Hancock,	2		305	4		247	5	1822
Hawes,	2		53	7		46	4	1811
Bowdoin,	2		282	4		273	22	1821
Latin,	1		152	28				1635
High School for Boys,	1		34	75				1821
Ditto for Girls,	1					53	77	1825
African,	2		41	13		28	10	1812
House of Industry,	2	24	14	2	32	7	4	
	74	1334	2319	153	1261	1805	172	

RECAPITULATION.

Under 7—males	1334
females	1261
7 to 14—males	2319
females	1805
over 14—males	153
females	172
Total	7044

* See Note in relation to these dates on last page.

(B) RETURN OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE. MAY 1826.

No. of District.	No. of school.	Location of School.	Name of Teacher.	No. of girls under 7 yrs.	Girls over 7 yrs.	total of girls.	Boys under 7 yrs.	Boys over 7 yrs.	total boys	Total pupils May 17	Left since 31 March
I.	1	Charter street,	Mrs. White,	38	1	39	31	0	31	60	12
	2	Hanover street,	Mrs. Ditson,	29	1	30	26	0	26	56	18
	3	North Bennet street,	Mrs. Adams,	20	1	21	32	1	33	54	10
	4	Battery street,	Miss Eaton,	18	1	19	24	0	24	43	17
	5	Ann street,	Miss Domett,	25	0	25	20	1	21	46	18
	6	Fleet street,	Miss Hagar,	20	5	25	30	1	31	56	13
	7	Prince street,	Miss Thayer,	18	1	19	34	0	34	53	12
II.	1	Salem street,	Miss Barnes,	18	3	21	29	4	33	54	4
	2	Hanover street,	Mrs. Wilder,	25	1	26	33	1	34	60	15
	3	Cross street,	Mrs. Davies,	27	3	30	28	6	34	64	11
	4	Prince street,	Mrs. Hansell,	25	3	28	21	3	24	52	18
	5	Pond and Salem streets,	Miss Snow,	16	2	18	23	7	30	48	6
	6	Ann and Richmond streets,	Miss Turner,	28	0	28	35	2	37	65	19
III.	1	Scotts Court, Union street,	Miss Deshon,	35	3	38	20	0	20	58	20
	2	Scotts Court, do.	Miss Hunstable,	26	1	27	26	2	28	55	17
	3	Distill House Square,	Miss Vallette,	29	0	29	26	0	26	55	23
	4	Leverett Place,	Mrs. Parmenter,	23	4	27	33	2	35	62	19
	5	Pitts Court,	Miss Lord,	28	0	28	35	2	37	65	14
	6	Wiltshire street,	Miss Townsend,	28	2	30	21	3	24	54	24
	7	Second street,	Miss Peirce,	23	5	28	16	5	21	49	7
	8	Spring street,	Miss Howe,	28	2	30	32	1	33	63	11
IV.	1	Cambridge street,	Miss Ford,	32	3	35	24	3	27	62	21
	2	South Russell street,	Miss Jewett,	17	4	21	32	1	33	54	14
	3	May street,	Miss Johnson,	27	0	27	23	0	23	50	21
	4	Cambridge street,	Miss Bailey,	26	3	29	26	4	30	59	9
African	5	Belknap,	Mrs. Foster,	13	15	28	16	6	22	50	18
	6	George street,	Mrs. Paul,	24	10	34	21	1	22	56	1
	7	May street	Miss Moore,	15	0	15	23	11	34	49	7
V.	1	Hamilton street,	Mrs. Newmarch,	17	0	17	36	0	36	53	20
	2	Broad street,	Miss Newmarch,	37	1	38	24	0	24	62	12
	3	Purchase street,	Miss Fox,	27	2	29	33	2	35	64	13
	4	High street,	Miss Blanchard,	19	3	22	26	2	28	50	7
	5	Theatre Alley,	Miss Page,	25	3	28	20	2	22	50	8
	6	Court in Washington street,	Miss Greene,	22	1	23	36	1	37	60	13
	7	Devonshire street,	Miss Ares,	29	1	30	19	0	19	49	7
VI.	1	Boylston Court,	Miss Greaton	27	2	29	16	3	19	48	11
	2	Elliot street,	Miss M'Intosh,	30	1	31	30	3	33	64	16
	3	Pleasant street,	Mrs. Hope,	30	4	34	26	4	30	64	14
	4	Front street,	Mrs. Thaxter,	22	1	23	31	3	34	57	18
	5	Short street,	Miss Siders,	25	2	27	27	1	28	65	10
	6	East street,	Miss Cushing,	19	1	20	20	2	22	42	13
	7	Sea street,	Miss Rogers,	21	5	26	21	5	26	52	13
VII. Formerly one district	1	Near the head of Warren st.	Miss Warren,	34	6	40	24	1	25	65	5
	2	Mechanic Place,	Miss Bell,	25	4	29	33	5	38	67	4
	3	No. 707 Washington street,	Miss Groves,	28	5	33	28	4	32	65	17
	6	Boylston Square,	Miss Churchill,	12	5	17	14	3	17	34	7
	7	No. 675 Washington street,	Miss Sawin,	23	5	28	24	3	27	55	7
Not yet reorganised.	9	Washington street Neck,	Miss Hill, [latest established]	12	5	17	11	1	12	29	10
VIII.	4	South Boston,	Mrs. Thayer,	20	2	22	22	1	23	45	4
	5	South Boston,	Miss Cole,	17	3	20	23	3	26	46	10
	8	South Boston.	Miss Fiske.	27	10	37	26	4	30	67	9
Total.		Eight Districts, 51 Schools	2805 pupils, average 55 to a Sch.	1229	146	1375	1310	120	1430	2805	647

In addition to the foregoing, two other schools are by a vote of the board authorised, but not yet established: viz. one at the Mill Dam, and one at the western part of the city; for each of which it is understood there are from thirty to forty pupils in readiness, not included in the foregoing.

The schools are kept the whole year round for each sex* and at uniform hours, according to the season, which we believe are the same as those adopted for the Grammar Schools, and with similar vacations.

The average annual expense for school books to each pupil for their whole term may be estimated at about fifty cents; though pupils at their commencing expend less, as elementary cards belonging to the city are made use of in the lowest class, which, on the above average, permits some additional expense to first class scholars.

The regulations devote to each school two dollars to be annually expended for rewards at the discretion of the district committees.

We do not know that any children are prevented attending school for the want of books—though many who do attend are frequently quite destitute thereof and require aid.

Of the number contained in this last column as having left their respective schools since the semi-annual examination at the close of March, we presume at least one half have been admitted to the public grammar schools,—some have gone to private schools—and some have been transferred to other primary schools in different locations nearer their present places of residence.

* This is correct, with the exception (and it should be stated here) that for four months in the year, say from December 1st to April 1st, the misses at the common Grammar and writing Schools do not attend school.

(C)

MEMORANDUM OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

WARDS.	schools.	under 4.	Boys.			Misses.			total..	Annual expense.
			4 to 7	7 to 14	over 14	4 to 7	7 to 14	over 14		
No. 1	12	27	41	53	6	41	105	58	336	4466
2	6	11	16	1	0	17	34	0	79	734
3	6	13	6	3	0	31	31	1	85	758
4	16	10	53	84	60	63	111	27	408	8746
5	9	4	54	54	4	59	77	9	261	5448
6	12	24	24	6	0	50	94	50	248	10.720
7	24	33	25	79	19	80	272	92	600	23.222
8	18	49	59	74	29	72	278	44	605	11.838
9	3	7	8	0	0	25	11	3	54	624
10	12	24	38	12	0	69	169	53	365	8230
11	14	37	41	21	0	41	46	15	201	3668
12	11	33	20	20	1	29	46	1	150	2130
	141	272	385	412	119	577	1274	353	3392	80.584

Of the above 141 schools, 22 are conducted by gentlemen, and 119 by ladies.

Estimate expenses of Private Schools as above				$80,584 00
Expense of books, viz.				
1234 pupils at 75 cents each is	$ 925 50			
2158 " $2¼ "	4,855 50			
—— 3392		$5,731 00		
Public Schools, viz.				
2805 at 50 cents each is	$1,402 50			
4239 " $2¼ is	9,537 75			
—— 7044		10,940 25		
				16,721 25
10,436				
				97,305 25
Amount of tax for Public Schools as taken from Auditor's books				54,417 00
Total amount for Public and Private Schools,				$151,722 25

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN BOSTON, MAY 1817.

A statement of the schools as they stood in 1817, may not be uninteresting and is here given—it is believed to be the only return previous to the present, which has ever been made of all the schools in Boston, and was obtained at that time at the instance of the town, the year previous to the establishment of the primary schools.

Numbers in Public Schools in May 1817.

	Schools.					
Eliot,	2	304	males, and	149	females.	
Adams,	2	259	"	75	"	
Franklin,	2	362	"	236	"	
Mayhew,	2	339	"	234	"	
		1264		694*	total	2258
Latin,	1					100
South Boston,	1					40
African	1					60
Alms House,	1					100
At Public Schools,	12 in number, total number of pupils					2558
At Private Schools,	154 in number,					4132
Total number of Schools,	166				total	6690

Town tax in 1817 for above schools was $18,700

* The number of Misses at the *Grammar* Schools were even less than this by nearly 200.

NAMES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE SINCE 1789.

The following gentlemen have served, in the order as they are published, on the School Committee since the adoption of the present system of the Boston Schools in 1789—having served the number of years set against their names. Those with an S against their names were Selectmen, and those marked A were members of the Board of Aldermen, and served on said Committee *ex officio*.

Those in *italics* are deceased.

		yrs.			yrs.
John Scollay,	S	2	*David Tilden,*	S	13
Harbottle Dorr,	S	3	Russell Sturgis,	S	8
Ezekiel Price,	S	9	*Jona. L. Austin,*		1
John Brown,	S	1	Dr. Wm. Spooner,		4
Edward Tyler,	S	2	Arnold Welles, jr.		16
John Andrews,	S	2	*Joseph Crocker,*		1
Thomas Walley,	S	9	*Edward Gray,*		9
Wm Boardman,	S	9	*Jonathan Harris,*	S	1
Ebenezer Seaver,	S	10	*Joseph Howard,*	S	6
Thomas Dawes,		18	*Benj Austin, jr.*	S	1
Rev. Samuel West,		14	*Eben. Hancock,*	S	3
Rev. Dr. Lathrop,		8	*David Greene,*		15
Rev. James Freeman,		4	Rev. J. T. Kirkland,		13
John Coffin Jones,		6	Rufus G. Amory,		2
Dr. Thomas Welsh,		33	*William Porter,*	S	13
Dr. Nath. W. Appleton,		6	*Wm. Sherburne,*	S	5
Jona. Mason, jr.		4	Joseph May,	S	1
Dr. Aa. Dexter,		32	Samuel Cobb,	S	1
Christopher Gore,		4	*John Tileston,*	S	7
Geo R. Minot,		9	Eben. Oliver,	S	20
William Tudor,		8	*Rev Jos Eckley,*		10
Jabez Hatch,	S	2	Josiah Quincy,		6
Thomas Edwards,	S	2	Jon. Hunnewell,	S	20
Joseph Peirce,	S	2	*Rev. Wm Emerson,*		11
Thomas Crafts,	S	6	*John Phillips,*		10
William Little,	S	7	*John May,*	S	9
Samuel Cabot,	S	1	*Francis Wright,*	S	9
Chas. Bulfinch,	S	23	Jon Chapman,	S	4
Wm. Scollay,	S	3	John Bray,	S	2
Jona L Austin,	S	3	John Heard, jr.		11
Rev. John Clark,		3	*Charles Davis,*		14
William Smith,		24	*Joseph Kettell,*	S	2
Jesse Putnam,	S	1	John Davis.		2
Dr. David Townsend,		3	Nathan Webb,	S	6
Rev. Samuel Stillman,		5	Joseph Foster,	S	7

Benj. Weld,	S	7
Rev. W. E. Channing,		3
Wm. Prescott,		3
Rev. J. S. Buckminster,		2
Joseph Lovering,	S	8
Rev. Chas. Lowell,		11
Joseph Austin,	S	7
Robt. Williams,	S	4
Rev. H Holley,		6
P. O. Thacher,		7
Dr. J. C. Warren,		6
Francis J. Oliver,		9
William Wells,		11
Rev. Samuel Carey,		2
Edmund Hartt	S	1
Geo. G. Lee,	S	1
Turner Phillips,	S	4
Rev. J. Huntington,		3
Henry Bass,	S	3
Thos. Wigglesworth,		1
Benj. Russell,		5
Samuel Dorr,	S	3
Lemuel Shaw,	S	1
Enoch Silsby,	S	3
Henry Farnham,	S	1
Lemuel Shaw,		2
Henry J. Oliver,		4
Rev. N. L. Frothingham,		3
Rev. Daniel Sharp,		2
Benjamin West,		1
Dr. John G. Coffin,		2
Rev. Paul Dean,		4
Rev. J. Pierpont,		6
Benj. Austin,	S	1
Daniel Baxter,	S	2
Jona. Loring,	S	2
Samuel Billings,	S	2
Eliphalet Williams,	S	2
Jeremiah Fitch,	S	2
Abram Babcock,	S	2
Robert Fennelly,	S	2
Samuel A Wells,	S	2
David W. Child,	S	1
John Phillips, Mayor,		1

Samuel Billings,	A	1
Ephraim Eliot,	A	1
Jacob Hall,	A	1
Joseph Head,	A	1
Joseph Jenkins,	A	1
Joseph Lovering,	A	1
Nathaniel P. Russell,	A	1
Bryant P. Tilden,	A	1
Francis Bassett,		4
Dr. Horace Bean,		4
Rev William Jenks,		2
William Little,		3
Elisha Clap,		3
William Dall,		3
Warren Dutton,		2
Rev. Asa Eaton,		4
William Parmenter,		2
Josiah Quincy, Mayor,		3
Daniel Baxter,	A	2
George Odiorne,	A	2
David W. Child,	A	2
Joseph H. Dorr,	A	2
Ashur Benjamin,	A	2
Enoch Patterson,	A	2
Caleb Eddy,	A	2
Stephen Hooper,	A	2
Rev. Hosea Ballou,		2
Dr. George Hayward,		2
Dr. Caleb H. Snow,		1
Samuel Swett,		1
Daniel Carney,	A	1
John Bellows,	A	1
Josiah Marshall,	A	1
Thomas Welsh, jr.	A	1
Henry J. Oliver,	A	1
John Bryant,	A	1
George Blake,	A	1
John D. Dyer,	A	1
Silas Blaisdale,		1
Rev. Sebastian Streeter,		1
Alden Bradford,		1
Rev. B. B. Wisner,		1
Rev. Prince Hawes,		1

NAMES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR 1826.

Chairman,

Honorable JOSIAH QUINCY, Mayor.

ALDERMEN.

Daniel Carney,	Henry J. Oliver,	*Memb's ex officio.*
John Bellows,	John F. Loring,	
Josiah Marshall,	Francis Jackson,	
Thomas Welsh, jr.	Edward H. Robbins, jr.	

Silas Blaisdel,	Alden Bradford,
Redford Webster,	B. B. Wisner,
Horace Bean,	Bradford Sumner.
Asa Eaton,	George Hayward,
Samuel Barrett,	John Pierpont,
John B. Davis,	Prince Hawes.

Secretary,

John Pierpont.

MEMBERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1826.

Chairman,

DEA. MOSES GRANT.

Standing Committee.

Thomas Wells,	William Brown,
Moses Grant,	Dr. Enoch Hale,
Isaac P. Osgood,	John P. Spooner,
Joshua P. Blanchard,	Daniel Noyes,

Secretary.

William T. Andrews.

District No. 1.	*No.* 2.
Henry Fowle, jr.	
Wm. Barry, jr.	Joseph Lewis,
William Knapp,	John Farrie, jr.
Ephraim Milton,	Wm. Palfrey,
John Fenno, jr.	Isaac T. Dupee,
Charles Lincoln, jr.	William Jones,
Rev. Sebastian Streeter.	Whitney Hall.

District No. 3.
Reuben Richards, jr.
Fred T Gray,
George Domett,
John Hewes,
George Lane,
Sampson Reed,
Samuel Howe,
John Dane,

No. 4.
Richard Ward,
Lewis G. Pray,
Calvin Washburn,
Dr. John P. Spooner,
Thomas Power,
Daniel Henchman,
Thomas Wiley,

District No. 5.
Dr. Zabdiel B. Adams,
John P. Blanchard,
Isaac Mansfield,
Abiel Chandler,
Francis O. Watts,
William T. Eustis,
Charles Stoddard,
Rev. Louis Dwight.

No. 6.
Benjamin A. Gould,
John Lowell, jr.
Samuel Davis,
David Lee Child,
James Bowdoin,
George B. Emerson,
George H. Snelling.

No. 7, and 8.
Gerry Fairbanks,
Stephen Fairbanks,
William Taylor,
Rev. Lemuel Capen.
Bela Hunting,
Adam Bent,
Henry Hatch,
William B. Dorr,
Francis Jackson.

Whole number 60.

☞ *Gentlemen having each the charge of one School.*

NOTE, referred to p. 8.

There is an uncertainty as to the correctness within some ten or twelve years of the early dates here given. The dates are gathered from the town records. In the first settlement of the town, although a good attention was paid to the subject of education, still that particular regard to dates is not found which could be desired, and will account for our not being able to fix with more certainty upon the precise time when any particular school was established. It may not be unimportant to mention that the first record on the town books is in the year "1634, 7th month, day 1," and the first notice on the subject of *schools* is in April 1635—at about which time the first school may be supposed to have been established.—It would appear that there was only one school up to the year 1669, as that year we find this record, "It is ordered that the ten pounds left by legacy to *ye* schoole of Bostone by miss Hudson deceased shall be lett to Capt. James Oliver, (subsequently one of the selectmen) for sixteen shillings per annum so long as he pleases to improve itt."—It further also appears by an order passed in 1657 for "inlarging *the* skoole house" &c. In 1669 "*the* schoole house" is mentioned. After this period and prior to the earliest date, excepting that one of the Latin School, there were two schools, one at the north and one at the south part or in the centre of the town, and which would appear to have become amalgamated into the schools as above arranged.

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